

## INTIMATIONS

A. S. WATSON & CO.,  
LIMITED.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

Established A.D. 1841.

## SCOTCH WHISKY.

Per Case

A—THORNE'S BLEND White Capsule	\$10.80
B—WATSON'S GLENORCHY MELLOW BLEND, Blue Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark	10.30
C—WATSON'S ABERLOUR-GLENLIVER, Red Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark	12.00
D—WATSON'S H.K.D. BLEND OF THE FINEST SCOTCH MALT WHISKIES, Violet Capsule	14.10
E—WATSON'S VERY OLD LIQUEUR SCOTCH WHISKY, Gold Capsule	15.00

THORNE'S BLEND and WATSON'S GLENORCHY are high class Soda Whiskies, of greater age than most brands in the market.

ABERLOUR GLENLIVER is a very old Peat Whisky (smoky) and could not now be replaced in stock at the price.

D is well known for its fine flavour. E is of superb quality and pronounced by leading local connoisseurs to be the best brand in the Hongkong market.

A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED.  
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All communications relating to the news columns should be addressed to THE EDITOR.  
Correspondents must forward their communications with a full address, and the name of the paper, to the Editor, not to publication, but as evidence of good faith.  
All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

No correspondence and communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted.

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Address, 1, 62, Queen's Road, W.C. Post Office Box 20. Telephone No. 12.

## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, October 16th, 1890.

THE new Sanitary Bill has been a long time in incubation, and has undergone revision after revision at the hands of the departmental authorities. In its final form, as read a first time at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, it will, we think, meet with general approval. As stated in the "objects and reasons" attached to the Bill, hitherto the difficulty in the way of the Health Authorities has been that the beneficial sanitary provisions of recent Health Ordinances have had no retrospective effect, but have only applied to buildings erected since the passing of such Ordinances. The present Bill to some extent removes that difficulty, and existing houses will have to be brought into conformity with the conditions now laid down. Houses already existing which are not provided with a back yard of at least 50 square feet are required to have an open space between the principal room or rooms and the main wall at the back, such space to extend over one half of the entire width of the house. Thus all back to back houses will be provided with an air shaft. Formerly the majority of such houses had no provision for the circulation of air at the back. Of late years landlords have in a considerable number of cases voluntarily complied with the suggestions of the Sanitary Board and sacrificed a portion of the kitchen to make an air shaft. In most of these cases the space provided will, we believe, comply with the requirements of the present Bill, and in cases where such space may fall short of the standard by only an insignificant amount and where it would be a hardship to call upon the owner of the property to again undertake structural alterations, the Governor-in-Council will no doubt exercise the power given him to modify the requirements of the Ordinance. This power is given more particularly, however, with reference to the peculiar construction of certain back-to-back houses, the floors of which overlap one another and render the provision of an open space in the rear practically impossible. An example of such houses is to be found in those fronting on the one side on Bonham Strand and on the other side on Queen's Road, the ground floor on the Queen's Road side being the first floor on the Bonham Strand side. Property of this description cannot be dealt with strictly on the principles applicable to houses built on a level site and must therefore be subjected to special treatment. In such cases, where the provision of open spaces according to the terms of the Ordinance is waived by the Government, it is to be presumed that compensatory conditions will be imposed in order to ensure that on the whole the houses shall not fall below the standard required in other domestic buildings, although their arrangement may vary in matters of detail.

Clause 8 embodies the recommendations of the Sanitary Board with respect to open spaces at the rear of buildings created after the passing of the Bill. Houses 40 feet in depth are required to have an open space of 8 square feet for each foot of width, that is to say, a house 15 feet in width and 40 feet in depth will have to have an open space of 120 square feet. The scale in a similar case, houses exceeding 40 feet but not exceeding 60 feet in depth being required to have an open space of 10 square feet for each foot of width; exceeding 60 feet, but not exceeding 80 feet, 12 square feet; and houses exceeding 80 feet, 14 square feet. This scale is the same as in the Bill introduced last year but which was not proceeded with. It is also provided, as in the former Bill, that when the owners of a block of buildings agree to make a lane opening at either end upon a public street the width of the open space may be reduced according to a fixed scale, so that owners will sacrifice rather less space by jointly making a lane than by each owner providing his houses with separate yards. From a sanitary point of view yards are preferable to yards, as they give a free circulation of air.

Clause 6 of the Bill embodies the recommendations of the Sanitary Board with respect to the height of buildings erected on land acquired from the Crown after the passing of the Bill, and is more stringent in this respect than the provisions of section 12 of Ordinance 15 of 1894 as amended by Ordinance 21 of 1897. Section 12 of Ordinance 15 of 1894 provides in subsection A that in streets under 14 feet in width houses shall not exceed 35 feet in height, and that where the street is 14 ft. in width but does not exceed 20 ft. buildings shall not exceed 46 ft. in height; and in sub-section B "all other cases" are provided for, including equally buildings on land acquired from the Crown after the passing of the Ordinance and buildings in streets thereto made on land already privately owned. The scale provided in the last named sub-section was as follows:—Width of street 15 ft., height of building 25 ft.; street 20 ft., height of building 40 ft.; street 25 ft., height of building 45 ft.; street 30 ft., height of building 52 ft.; street 35 ft., height of building 55 ft.; street 40 ft., height of building 67 ft., the last named figure being the maximum height allowed without special permission of the Sanitary Board. These provisions of the old Ordinance are made more stringent by the new Bill to the extent that land acquired from the Crown after the passing of the Ordinance and building shall exceed in height one and a half times the width of the street. Being confined to land hereafter acquired from the Crown this provision will have practically no effect in reducing the height of buildings and so diminishing surface crowding in already occupied areas, unless in cases where the Government resumes and subsequently re-sells land.

The important question of cubicles, mezzanine floors, and cocklofts is dealt with in sections 4 and 5 of the Bill, and these are the provisions which will have the most immediate effect in reducing overcrowding. In streets under 15 feet in width no cubicles are to be allowed except on the top floor, and nowhere, no matter what the width of the street, are cubicles to be allowed on the ground floor. Other minor provisions refer to the window area and to the means to be adopted to secure the free circulation of air. These provisions if strictly enforced will materially improve the condition of the numerous tenement houses of the colony. They will also, we imagine, materially increase the rents, for with a diminution of the number of cubicles the demand will be correspondingly increased. From a pecuniary point of view, therefore, the new law will prove a hardship to the tenants, however beneficial it may be from a sanitary point of view. Rents in Hongkong are already abnormally high, and this aspect of the question should receive the serious attention of the Government. The remedy is to encourage the population to spread outwards to the suburbs, and for this easy and cheap communication by tramway and ferry are necessary. We have heard it suggested that the coolie class could not afford to pay trams, which may be the case, but the classes slightly above the coolie class in the social scale would no doubt patronise the suburbs if these were rendered accessible, the cost of hiring two leaves as a perquisite, save them for a few days, then sleep them in water in a tin pail or pan, use the pan for an hour, stain through a sieve, and use the liquor (two for all varnished paints). It requires very little elbow room, as tea actives a strong detergent cleaning the paint from all impurities, and making it equal to new. It cleans windows and oil cloths—indeed, any varnished surface approved by its application. It washes window frames much better than water, and is excellent for cleaning black walnut and looking-glass frames. Do not wash unvarnished paints with it.

## REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

[REURER'S TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] LONDON, 12th October.

## THE TRANSVAAL CRISIS.

The appointment of Mr. Basil R. H. Taylor to be Assistant Harbour Master with effect from the 22nd September, is gazetted.

The maximum temperature last month was 89.3 on the 20th, and the minimum 71.6 on the 28th and 29th, the mean for the month being 80.3. The rainfall amounted to 6.305 inches.

H.E. the Governor and Lady Blake went over to Macao on Saturday and are staying at the Boa Vista Hotel. They are expected back to-day, but may prolong their visit to-morrow.

The authorities of the Kiangnan Arsenal have decided to extend the manufacture of steel to the production of other articles, and a general for some time past.

Two Chinese have discovered a bad of excellent clay for brickmaking on the banks of the River Hain. Brickmaking machinery has been erected, and a light tramway for conveying the clay to the machines. Kilns in forging style. The daily output of bricks for the railway is very large. The kilns are on the river bank, and water carriage is convenient—Mercury.

The following incident, reported by the Daily Press, shows another illustration of the difficulties existing in the Kiangnan province. On the night of 7th inst. between eleven and two o'clock, a gang of about a hundred forty robbers made an attack upon a late pavilion in a market town of the Shunfu district, being armed with swords and revolvers. Some resistance was offered, but the robbers effected their purpose, broke open the shop, and carried away money and goods to the value of over \$10,000. Several persons were killed.

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8 square feet for each foot of width, that is to say, a house 15 feet in width and 40 feet in depth will have to have an open space of 120 square feet. The scale in a similar case, houses exceeding 40 feet but not exceeding 60 feet in depth being required to have an open space of 10 square feet for each foot of width; exceeding 60 feet, but not exceeding 80 feet, 12 square feet; and houses exceeding 80 feet, 14 square feet. This scale is the same as in the Bill introduced last year but which was not proceeded with. It is also provided, as in the former Bill, that when the owners of a block of buildings agree to make a lane opening at either end upon a public street the width of the open space may be reduced according to a fixed scale, so that owners will sacrifice rather less space by jointly making a lane than by each owner providing his houses with separate yards. From a sanitary point of view yards are preferable to yards, as they give a free circulation of air.

The stamp revenue last month amounted to \$31,365, being an increase of \$4,507 on the amount collected in the corresponding month of last year. There were increases in the four headings advertising, printing, and decreases under the head of stationery, of which \$2,634 occurred under the head of post.

The German steamer *Hedwig*, which left Shanghai on the 1st inst., arrived on Friday night, the 13th, having occupied eleven days on the voyage. The delay was caused by the heavy weather and an accident that occurred to the steering gear on the 8th. The vessel was repeatedly afloat by the waves and sustained some damage to her deck fittings.

Mr. E. Georg, in his weekly share list dated 14th October, says:—Under the influence of the wireless telegrams from home, and lighter money amongst their men, the solo exception of the solo Chinese, which have been increasing considerably, most stocks have risen rapidly and inactive, with lower prices in consequence.

The *Hopco* reports that a prominent Chinese has denounced Lin, the chief survey of the Empress Dowager to the Mikado, as a traitor to the Manchu dynasty, on the ground that, while in Japan, Lin was in most intimate relations with those called Arch-rebel Sun Yat-sen, the Empress Dowager is influenced by the denunciations, says the paper, upon the outbreak for Lin will be a serious and imminent hazard to the Chinese.

Judge—The Hon. J. Keswick and Mr. V. A. Cesar Hawkins.

Handicaps—The Hon. C. P. Chater, Mr. C. G. M. Mr. B. M. Gray, Mr. V. A. Cesar Hawkins, Mr. T. F. Hough, Mr. J. K. Kewell, The Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Mr. J. Mokis, Mr. G. C. Potts, Mr. J. M. A. Higgins, R.E., Mr. C. F. Potts, Mr. J. A. H. H. May, The O'Gorman, R.A., Mr. C. W. L. Warren, R.A., Com. B.M.C., Mr. G. C. Mexon, The Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

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